GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:905
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2005
BOGUS VOTERS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that more than 2.5 crore voters out of total voters are bogus as reported in the Times of India dated June 2, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the nationals of adjoining countries are also having Indian Voter Identity Cards; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the plans formulated to remove such bogus voters from the Voters Lists in various States?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a): The Government has come across the news item reported in the Times of India. However, it is not correct to say that more than 2.5 crore voters out of total voters are bogus.

(b): The said press report has been carefully examined by the Election Commission of India. The report is based on the census figures of 2001and there is scope for inherent errors in the figures coming out of such a gigantic head-count. Any generalized analysis of elector on the basis of All India 2001 Census and projected population figures of 2004 may not truly reflect the ground situation, as ratio position of the population above the age of 18 years may vary from State to State and even from district to district. Further, the `bogus` voter literally means `fictitious` voter and the Election Commission in this connection is of the view that there are hardly any fictitious electors in the electoral rolls. However, the possibility of duplicate or multiple entries of names, names of dead electors in the elector rolls, resulting in the inflated elector rolls cannot be denied. The Election Commission has taken several measures to remove the duplicate/multiple entries and names of dead persons from the electoral rolls. The electoral rolls are now being furnished to the Gram Sabhas, Resident Welfare Associations, local authorities, Non-Government Organisations, etc., apart from the recognized political parties. The names of electors of the concerned areas are being read out in the meetings of the Gram Sabhas, Resident Welfare Associations, etc. and they are now assisting the electoral registration authorities in getting the names deleted of those persons who are no longer residing in their areas or those who have died. The authorities concerned with the registration of births and deaths have also been directed to furnish lists of dead persons to the electoral registration authorities twice in a year - January and July. The Computer technology is also being used extensively and intensively to identify and weed out the duplicate/multiple entries. The electoral rolls are being revised now almost every year. During such revision, the draft rolls are displayed at a large number of designated locations very near the loca lities concerned enabling the residents to scrutinize those rolls and file claims and objections at those designated locations themselves. Special campaign drives are also carried out at a large number of designated locations on specified days, which are normally holidays for the general public. Apart from the other designated locations, even the post offices are now being used as designated locations and the assistance of the postal authorities is being utilized for displaying the rolls, receiving claims and objections and even for the local verification of those claims and objections.

(c) & (d): The Election Commission of India has informed that as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, only Indian citizens are eligible for inclusion into electoral roll and only persons registered as such can obtain an Elector`s Photo Identity Card. However, some times during house to house enumeration or during the period of filing claims and objections, some names of ineligible persons find their way into the electoral rolls due to false information provided by the applicants and might have procured the Elector`s Photo Identity Cards. The Election Commission has no data of such cases.